

WE CLAIM

1. A cargo closure for sealing a cargo item in a closed condition comprising a tie and a data carrying member, the tie being permanently closable in the sense that once closed, the tie cannot easily be opened without rupturing the tie, and being adapted to secure the data carrying
5 member to a said cargo item, wherein the data carrying member comprises a flag having a median zone of weakness about which the flag is foldable selectively to conceal or reveal data carried thereby.
2. A cargo closure according to claim 1 wherein said tie comprises a stem and a member having an opening into which the stem may be inserted, the stem and
10 opening comprising co-operating surface formations adapted and arranged to allow insertion of the stem into the opening and to resist the stems withdrawal therefrom.
3. A cargo closure according to claim 2 wherein the stem comprises a zone of weakness.
4. A cargo closure according to claim 3 wherein the ultimate tensile strength
15 of the zone of weakness is below the force required to withdraw the stem from the opening.
5. A cargo closure according to claim 2 wherein the stem comprises a stop means operative to limit insertion of the stem into the opening.
6. A cargo closure according to claim 2 wherein the surface formations
20 comprise a series of axially spaced ribs and such ribs are of a generally saw-toothed shaped profile.
7. A cargo closure according to claim 6 wherein said ribs extend around said stem in substantially circular manner.

8. A cargo closure according to claim 7, wherein a said co-operating surface formation on said opening is spaced from each end of that opening by an amount which is greater than the axial spacing of said ribs.
9. A cargo closure according to claim 1 wherein the tie and the data carrying member are constituted by an integral molding of thermoplastics material.
10. A cargo closure according to claim 2 wherein the stem includes a strip of conductive material.
11. A cargo closure according to claim 10 wherein releasable snap-fit means are provided for holding the foldable data carrying member in folded condition.
- 10 12. A cargo closure according to claim 10 wherein the folded data carrying member constitutes a pocket for retaining a removable data carrier.
13. A cargo closure according to claim 12 wherein the removable data carrier comprises integrated circuit means.
14. A cargo closure according to claim 1 wherein some or all of the data is in the form of one or more visually legible characters.
- 15 15. A cargo closure according to claim 1 wherein some or all of the data is in machine readable form.
16. A travel pack comprising a travel document and at least one cargo closure according to claim 1.
- 20 17. A travel pack according to claim 16 wherein the travel document is a travel ticket.
18. A travel pack according to claim 16 wherein the travel document contains information selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) ownership information
- (b) an identification reference indicator
- (c) operator information
- (d) advertising information
- 5 (e) cargo handling information
- (f) cargo contents information
- (g) cargo delivery information
- (h) passenger travel information

19. A cargo item comprising two components which are relatively
10 movable to open the cargo item, and a cargo closure according to claim 1.

20. A cargo item according to claim 19 wherein at least one of the relatively movable components comprises part of a zip fastening device.

21. A cargo security system comprising a memory means adapted to store data relating to a cargo item, and a cargo closure according to claim 1, the cargo closure
15 comprising a data carrier which comprises a flag adapted to carry visually legible data and a tie adapted to secure the data carrier to the cargo item; the data carrier bearing a reference location indicator which gives an indication of an address, in said memory means, of data pertaining to the cargo item to which that data carrier is, or is intended to be, affixed.

20 22. A cargo security system according to claim 21 wherein the reference location indicator is visually legible.

23. A cargo security system according to claim 21 wherein the memory means comprises a computer and the cargo closure comprises a reprogrammable memory means and means is provided for transferring data between the memory means of
25 the computer and the memory means of the cargo closure.

24. A cargo security system according to Claim 23, wherein the cargo closure further comprises activating means for the memory means, and deactivating means for the memory means in order to define the period in which data may be recorded.
25. A cargo according to Claim 23 wherein the cargo closure comprises trigger
5 operable signalling means.
26. A cargo security system according to Claim 24 wherein a radio receiver is provided for triggering said signalling means.
27. A cargo closure for sealing a cargo item in a closed condition comprising a tie and a data carrying member which comprises a flag adapted to carry visually
10 legible data and having a median zone of weakness about which the flag is foldable selectively to conceal or reveal any such data carried thereby, the tie being permanently closable in the sense that once closed, it cannot easily be opened without rupturing it and being adapted to secure the data carrying member to the cargo item, the data carrying member further comprising memory means adapted to
15 store data in digital form.
28. A cargo closure according to claim 27 wherein the memory means comprises a magnetic storage medium.
29. A cargo closure according to claim 27 wherein the memory means is reprogrammable.
- 20 30. A cargo closure according to Claim 27 further comprising: a transmitter adapted to emit a signal containing data; a receiver adapted to receive a signal containing data; a clock; a processor adapted to control the transmitter, the clock and the memory means.
31. A cargo closure according to Claim 27 wherein the cargo closure is
25 operatively associated with:
a transmitter adapted to emit a signal containing data;

- a receiver adapted to receive a signal containing data;
 - a clock; and
 - a programmable memory adapted to store the data; and the cargo closure comprises:
- 5 a processor adapted to control the transmitter, the clock and the memory.

32. A cargo closure according to Claim 27 wherein the clock, the processor and the memory means are located on an integrated circuit and the integrated circuit is located on a smart card, the smart card further comprising input and output means.

33. A cargo security system comprising a plurality of cargo closures according to Claim 27 each attachable to a respective cargo item containing part of a cargo consignment wherein each transmitter, each receiver, each programmable memory, each clock and each processor are separately either associated with the cargo closure or the cargo item and the system periodically reaffirms that each cargo item remains with the rest of the cargo consignment, stores this information and provides an indication if the cargo consignment is no longer complete.
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34. A method of advertising, the method comprising: displaying advertising material on a data carrier attached to a cargo closure, the cargo closure comprising a permanently closeable tie and the data carrier connecting the cargo closure to a cargo container, the data carrying member comprising a flag having a median zone of weakness about which the flag is foldable selectively to conceal or reveal data carried thereby.
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35. A method of advertising according to Claim 34 wherein the advertising material is on a label which is stuck to the data carrier.